

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A polyethylene glycol (PEG)-polypeptide homodimer complex, comprising
 - a first PEG molecule; and
 - two molecules of a polypeptide, wherein the two molecules of the polypeptide are linked to each other via the first PEG molecule to form a polypeptide-first PEG-polypeptide complex, and the polypeptides of the polypeptide-first PEG-polypeptide complex each are bonded to a second PEG molecule having a larger molecular weight than that of the first PEG molecule to form a second PEG-polypeptide-first PEG-polypeptide-second PEG complex, the first and second PEG molecules having molecular weights ranging from 2 to 20 kDa and from 20 to 40 kDa, respectively, and wherein the first PEG molecule is covalently bonded to the polypeptides at an N-terminal residue or at the C-terminal residue of the polypeptides.

2. (currently amended): The complex of claim 1, wherein the first PEG molecule is covalently bonded to the respective N-terminal residue of the polypeptide molecules.

3. (previously presented): The complex of claim 1, wherein the second PEG molecule is covalently bonded to an amino group of a lysine residue of the polypeptide molecules.

4. (previously presented): The complex of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a human growth hormone, interferon, granulocyte colony stimulating factor, granulocyte colony stimulating factor derivative having an amino acid sequence wherein cysteine at position 17 is replaced with serine, erythropoietin, insulin, interleukin, granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor, and tumor necrosis factor receptor.

5. (previously presented): The complex of claim 1, wherein the first PEG molecule has two aldehyde or propionic aldehyde groups at each end.

Claims 6-7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented): The complex of claim 1, wherein said second PEG molecule has at one end a reactive group selected from the group consisting of succinimidyl propionate, succinimidyl carboxymethyl, succinimidyl carbonate and maleimide.

9. (previously presented): The complex of claim 1, wherein said second PEG molecule is linear or branched.

Claims 10 - 11 (canceled)

12. (withdrawn): A method for preparing the PEG-polypeptide homodimer complex of claim 1, which comprises the steps of: (a) preparing a homodimer by connecting two molecules of a physiologically active polypeptide via a PEG linker; and (b) modifying each of the two molecules of the physiologically active polypeptide of the homodimer with one molecule of PEG.